## Message Text

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R 150314Z FEB 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, CPRS, EFIN, EG, US

SUBJECT: US CLAIMS AGAINST EGYPT, CAIRO TELEGRAM 1601

- 1. AT THIS JUNCTURE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT ADOPTED ANY FIRM VIEW REGARDING PROCEDURE AND TACTICS OF HANDLING CLAIMS OF USG AND OF US NATIONALS AGAINST GOE. FINAL NEGOTIATING TACTICS WOULD BE FORMULATED ONLY AFTER FULL CONSULTATION WITH AND APPROVAL OF AMBASSADOR. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE GUIDED BY EMBASSY VIEWS AND COUNSEL AS TO BEST AND MOST ADVANTAGEOUS METHOD OF HANDLING BOTH CATEGORIES OF CLAIMS. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY APPLIED FLEXIBLE APPROACH IN AUTHORIZING AND INSTRUCTING THE EMBASSY TO NEGOTIATE SEPARATELY, OUTSIDE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, EGYPTIAN DEBT ARREARAGES (DEPTEL 267732, DECEMBER 6, 1974).
- 2. BELIEVE EMBASSY'S CONCERN OVER HANDLING OF "OFFICIAL" "PUBLIC" CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOE IS DUE TO SEMANTICS RATHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAN SUBSTANCE. TERMS "OFFICIAL" AND "PUBLIC" CLAIMS

WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE FOLLOWING CASES OF WHICH THE DEPARTMENT IS PRESENTLY AWARE: (A) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD FOR PEACE CLAIM; (B) 1964 ATTACK ON USIS LIBRARY, CAIRO; (C) 1964 ATTACK ON MARINE RESIDENCE BUILDING, CAIRO; (D) 1967 ATTACK ON CONSULATE GENERAL BUILDING, ALEXANDRIA;

- (E) 1967 ATTACK ON USIS LIBRARY, ALEXANDRIA; (F) 1967
  ATTACK ON CONSULATE, PORT SAID; (G) US NAVY CASE, SS
  AFRICAN GLEN; (H) JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CASE, SS BRIDGEHAMPTON; (I) JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CASE, SS SUZANNE; (J)
  EGYPTIAN DEBT ARREARAGES. THERE IS ALSO REPORTED, BUT
  AS YET UNVERIFIED, SEIZURES OF USG CARGOES ON SHIPS IN
  1967 IN ALEXANDRIA AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY TWO MILLION
  DOLLARS. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT GOE MAY RAISE AS
  COUNTERCLAIM DAMAGE TO EGYPTIAN CONSULATE AT SAN FRANCISCO.
  PRESUMABLY EMBASSY WOULD NOT WISH THAT ALL OF THESE ITEMS
  BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
  AFFAIRS. OF COURSE, THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION IF IN
  FACT THAT WOULD BE THE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS PROCEDURE.
- 3. DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO EMBASSY PROPOSAL THAT QUOTE OFFICIAL UNQUOTE QUOTE PUBLIC UNQUOTE CLAIMS BE INITIALLY NEGOTIATED DIRECTLY WITH EGYPTIAN MFA AND THAT ONLY REMAINING UNRESOLVED SUCH CASES BE REFERRED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE AT A LATER DATE IF NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE. IF THIS IS THE CASE, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH DEWIDAR NOT TO OUSTER THE JOINT COMMITTEE COMPLETELY FROM CONSIDERING QUOTE OFFICIAL UNQUOTE QUOTE PUBLIC UNQUOTE US CLAIMS.
- 4. SKELETAL LIST OF ALL PRE-1967 CLAIMS OF US NATIONALS WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON ARRIVAL OF L REPRESENTATIVE. DEPARTMENT'S VERIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL VALID CLAIMS OF US NATIONALS AGAINST GOE IS PROCEEDING EXTREMELY SLOWLY DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE CLAIMANTS' RESPONSES. L REPRESENTATIVE WILL DISCUSS PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES (SEE DEPARTMENT'S A-1703, MARCH 1, 1974) WITH EMBASSY UPON ARRIVAL. INGERSOLL

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